

Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711

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# PRAIRIE FIRE

... As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another. *From Prairie's Bond Of Union.*

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.*

e-mail version available: <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>

June 22, 1999

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, June 27

10am; **Jewish Fabric Art** presented by Annabelle Argand and Anne Pryor.

### Wednesday, June 30

At Edgewood College: the Dane County Peace Coalition is sponsoring a **Teach-In about the War in Kosovo, "The Myth of Humanitarian War"**.

### Sunday, July 4

**No Service at Prairie. Independence Day Picnic** at Shirley Grindrod's home at 2:30pm.

### Friday, July 9th

6pm; **Prairie Playreaders Annual Fish Dinner** at Quivey's Grove. Everyone welcome. For reservations, phone Pat Watkins no later than 4pm on Wed. July 7th.

### Sunday, July 11

10am; **"Relationships: The Heart of Community"** with guest speaker Mary Sykes from Citizen Advocacy.

### Sunday, July 18

**"Protection and Advocacy For the Most Vulnerable Members of our Community"** with guest speaker Mary Sykes from Citizen Advocacy.

### Wednesday, August 11

6:30pm; **Spanish Speakers Potluck** at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 Syene Rd., 273-2639.

**Friday Sept. 3rd through Sunday Sept. 5th** (a.k.a. Labor Day weekend) Prairie UU Society annual retreat at Bethel Horizons.

***Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Sunday, July 11th, 1999.***

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

### Sunday, June 27

10am; **"Labor of Love"** with guest Annabelle Argand. This is the fifth and final service in Anne Pryor's lay ministry on Art and Religion. Anabelle Argand, a member of Beth Israel Synagogue, will talk about and display a number of her hand-worked creative needlework pieces that incorporate Biblical and Hebrew themes into the imagery. Annabelle's work and her spirit are so inspiring that she was honored with participation in last summer's Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

### Sunday, July 4

**No Service at Prairie.** 2:30pm; **Independence Day Picnic at Shirley Grindrod's home** at 5234 Harbor Ct., Madison, which can be found off of Lake Mendota Dr. Their phone number is 238-4422.

### Sunday, July 11

10am; **“Relationships: The Heart of Community”**

with guest speaker Mary Sykes from Citizen Advocacy.

### Sunday, July 18

10am; **“Protection and Advocacy For the Most Vulnerable Members of our Community”** with

guest speaker Mary Sykes from Citizen Advocacy.

### Sunday, July 25

10am; **Report from the General Assembly** by Pat Watkins and Nancy Schraufnagel.

### Sunday, August 1

**Joint Service** with Sauk City, James Reeb and Prairie.

Details to follow later.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### Hospitality Helpers:

Warm people and drinks and clean-up crew.

#### **June 27:**

**Greeting Visitors:** Rosemarie Lester

**Coffee Set-Up:** Barbara Rames

**Coffee Clean-up:** Jean Matos & Nikki B.

### Program Taping:

**June 27:** *Need Volunteer*

### Lawn Mowing

**June 27-July 3:** Kathy Helm

**July 4-10:** Robin Carre

**July 4:** **Independence Day Picnic**

*No Service at Prairie*

*“How much does a man live, after all?*

*Does he live a thousand days, or only one?*

*For a week, or for several centuries?*

*How long does a man spend dying?*

*What does it mean to say “for ever”?”*

-Pablo Neruda

## OUR SOCIETY

### Social Action Update

*Food Pantry*--Since food pantries in Madison are usually depleted by mid-July into August, we ask you to keep the pantry at Allied-Dunn’s Marsh Community Center in mind when you do your shopping in the next few months. Always needed are: canned fruit, juice (concentrated 100% juice in cans, NOT frozen, is best), and meals in a can or box. Keep in mind foods that kids like, that are also good for them. Items such as canned pumpkin or beets are not likely to be used.

*MUM Summer Day Camp*--This camp for A-DM neighborhood schoolchildren has already begun and runs through July 22, Monday through Thursdays. If you are interested in volunteering in a large or small way please contact Jeannie at 277-2353.

*Summer Scholarships*--Some youth from the A-DM neighborhood are hoping to attend special summer programs, such as Apprentice City, a program for girls to gain hands-on experience in selected career areas, or a camping trip for boys. If you are interested in making it financially possible for these youths to do these activities, or if you would like more information, please contact Jeannie at the above number.

*Drop-In Day Camp*--This MUM-sponsored camp is for schoolchildren in the A-DM neighborhood and covers the two-week period after July 22 and before the beginning of public school. Volunteers are welcome. Assistance with purchasing and serving meals is especially welcome. Contact Judy Harder at 278-0028.

*Girl Power*--This group at the A-DM Community Center is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers who like working with girls between the ages of 9 and 14. Call the United Way at 246-4380 or the center at 274-7006.

*Parish Nurse*--Allied Partners has been instrumental in the hiring of Michelle Ritcherson to be the parish nurse for the A-DM neighborhood. Some of the many services she brings to the residents are acting as liaison to other health care providers, providing follow-up medical care and monitoring, and doing education and outreach about health care issues. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist her (medical background not necessary) may reach her at 257-6098.

*Community Thrift Store donations*--If you are planning to bring a large donation to Prairie to be taken to the Community Thrift Store (the SAC gets a percentage of the sales of items donated in its name) please contact Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806. We want to avoid having a lot of bags and boxes sitting in the foyer for days or weeks taking up space.

*Men's Homeless Shelter Breakfast*--On the fourth Monday of every month, the SAC donates breakfast supplies for the following Tuesday for the men using this shelter located at Grace Episcopal Church on the Capital Square. If you can spare two to two and a half hours for purchasing and delivering these supplies to the church, it would be helpful. The Social Action Committee reimburses you for the grocery bill. Contact Paula Pachciarz if you can help out in July or August. Also, even though we are no longer committed to cooking and serving the breakfast, we are welcome to do so and it can be a rewarding experience. Please let Paula know if you are interested in participating in this service.

*"Personal ritual or shared ceremony rooted in landscape provides connections, continuity. It reminds us that we do not stand alone. Rather, we become initiated into something much larger than ourselves. We experience a universal embrace".*

-Terry Tempest Williams

### **"FIRST CALL FOR HELP"**

The Caring Committee has been established to help other Prairie members in need. The types of support offered are writing notes, rides, telephoning, preparing food, visits, child care, support for people dealing with life crises (e.g., grieving), tape delivery, and a community resource list. We also have a small library.

If you have or know of a member or friend who has a special need that the Caring Committee should know about, feel free to call our primary point of contact for this month: Erin Bosch, 238-6285.

The primary person has a master list of volunteers who can be called upon depending on the support needed.

### **A GIFT OF COMMUNITY BUILDING AND PERSONAL SUPPORT**

I want to share my exciting idea with you! I would like to compile stories from our many members and friends who attend Prairie to bring in booklet form with me on my adventure to the Peace Corps and the Caribbean. These stories could be words of wisdom, teachings, cultural experience and hope from Madison in the United States to the people of a non-industrialized area. They would be your stories of this country, which I would share with my neighbors and co-workers abroad at appropriate meaningful moments. These stories, recipes and songs I would like to compile as your gift to me of community and my gift to the people's of another land. You could either relay your story verbally to me and I would prepare it in written format or you could write it yourself. Additionally I would want to produce a number of these booklets using my own resources to make available to you to purchase to raise funds for Prairie. If this project has wings I may be bringing a booklet home with stories and teachings from the Caribbean.

Karen A Gross

(608) 259-0556

[karengross@gdinet.com](mailto:karengross@gdinet.com)

### **2-4-10 Mowers Needed**

The prairie cares for itself, but Prairie's lawn requires a weekly mowing for the next four months. Many volunteers will keep the burden from being shouldered by a few. This is a gender-neutral opportunity with minor age but substantial physical requirements. A "safe" mower, with gasoline, is provided. The pay is fantastic - a real fantasy. Contact Rick Ruecking 838-8540 to schedule your week. Thanks.

### **Weaving the Woman's Web**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual WomanSpirit gathering "**Weaving the Woman's Web**" is being planned for the weekend of August 6,7 and 8 at Camp Ronora in Watervilet, Michigan. Be sure to keep this date open if you are interested. More details and brochures will follow. The contact person for this year is Karin Janowski at 708-246-4347 or email at <weavesweb@aol.com> .

### **THE INTERFAITH CALL FOR FREEDOM OF WORSHIP IN TIBET AND FOR UNIVERSAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:**

On the weekend of July 10th, 1999, houses of worship around the world will blend into their normal worship services an Interfaith Call for Freedom of Worship in Tibet and for Universal Religious Freedom. In July of 1998, over a thousand churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and gurudwaras joined the Interfaith Call, and this coming year, we hope to expand that number significantly. We invite you to join the Call and to talk to religious leaders in your area. The more who participate in this Call, the more we hope to influence Chinese authorities to engage in meaningful negotiations with the Tibetan government in exile about the future of Tibet and specifically about religious freedom for the Tibetan people.

### **From the Administrator's Desk**

Just to remind people that there will only be one issue of the Prairie Fire published in July. That deadline date is Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and will come out later that week. The next deadline date is August 1<sup>st</sup>. That means that there are three-week gaps before and after that one July issue. Please bear that in mind when considering calendar dates and other timely matters to be included.

Also, I want to give a great, big thanks again to Barbara Rames who so diligently weeds, edges and maintains the yard and prairie for us. I'm not sure everyone realizes that she puts in many hours doing this during the warm season. Thank you Barbara!

I would like to notify all of you that I will be out of town from Wed., July 7 until Wed., July 14<sup>th</sup>. I will be going with my father and brother to visit my sister and her children in Colorado. I am looking forward to seeing the mountains again. I will be doing the July issue when I get back into town, but don't procrastinate on that deadline of the 11<sup>th</sup> because of it.

Thanks- Kate

***Remember that next Prairie Fire deadline is July 11<sup>th</sup>!***

*Excerpt from the June '99 issue of InterConnections*

### **Actions Speak Loudest In Vital Congregations**

Often words don't accurately communicate the convictions of our UU congregations. And some-times, through our actual practice, we communicate more than we may want to about ourselves, says the Rev. Lawrence Palmieri Peers, director of UUA's Extension Education and Research Office.

For instance, many of our congregations affirm the "Love is the spirit of this church and service is its prayer." Yet minutes later, newcomers may experience aloofness and coldness in our so-called "fellowship hour."

Examining our practices may give us a more accurate understanding of our congregation than any of our well-crafted mission statements. The most vital congregations practice what they preach. How would your congregation respond to these inquiries?

- ◇ In what ways do we express our sense of mission in our surrounding community? How does our community know what we value and believe?
- ◇ What congregational activities do our members report nurture them personally and spiritually?
- ◇ Is there a high level of involvement in our congregation's activities? How do these activities express the purpose and values of our congregations?
- ◇ How is our congregation's direction and purpose demonstrated?
- ◇ How will others who observe us know we are UUs?

It is the expression of our faith in tangible practice that makes our congregations vital.

[graphic of bird]

### **Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**July 16:** 6:30-10pm Service

**July 24:** 9am-12:30pm Service

**August 14:** 9am-12:30pm Service

**August 20:** 6:30-10pm Service

